

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-9 remain pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Claim 2 is cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-4 and 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Nitta, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,338,508) in view of Field (U.S. Pat. No. 2,430,671). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, applicant amends claim 1 to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 should be moot. Likewise, since claims 3-4 and 8-9 depend from claim 1, these rejections should also be moot.

Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nitta, et al. and Field as applied to claims 1, 3-4 above, and further in view of Kiyota (U.S. Pat. No. 5,006,164). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated above, applicant amends claim 1 to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Claims 5-7 depend from claim 1. Claims 5-7 should be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant amends claim 1 to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Claim 2 is cancelled.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 10, 2006

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